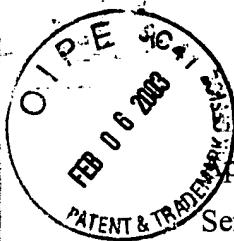


37384

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



Applicant: Timothy R. Ryan et al. Examiner: William H. Matthews  
Serial No.: 09/982,299 Group Art Unit: 3738  
Filed: October 16, 2001 Docket No.: M190.137.101  
Title: ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND METHOD

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

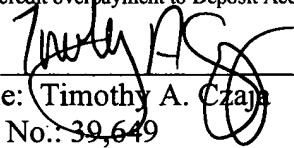
Sir/Madam:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet containing Certificate of Mailing (1 pg.).
- Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs.).
- Form PTO-1449 (2 pgs.).
- A copy of thirty-one (31) U.S. Patent Document(s), seven (7) Foreign Document(s), and zero (0) Other Art Document(s).
- A check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the fee for submission of an Information Disclosure Statement after receipt of an Office Action.
- Return Postcard.

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers, if appropriate. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 500471.

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, P.A.  
701 Building, Suite 1250  
701 Fourth Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

By:   
Name: Timothy A. Czaja  
Reg. No. 39,649

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 3 day of February, 2003.

By:   
Name: Timothy A. Czaja

The PTO did not receive the following  
listed item(s) A check \$ 180.00

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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FEB 10 2003



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Timothy R. Ryan et al.

Examiner: William H. Matthews

Serial No.: 09/982,299

Group Art Unit: 3738

Filed: October 16, 2001

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Title: ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND METHOD

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on attached form 1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. The cited references are enclosed for the Examiner's review. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, Applicants further request a copy of the 1449 form, marked as being considered and initialled by the Examiner, be returned with the next Official Communication.

Since an Office Action has been received by Applicants, a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed to cover the submission of an Information Disclosure Statement as set forth under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p). However, at any time during the pendency of this Patent Application the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 500471 for any additional fees or credit any overpayments.

Applicants respectfully request consideration of these references during prosecution of the above-identified matter. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant: Timothy R. Ryan et al.

Serial No.: 09/982,299

Filed: October 16, 2001

Docket No.: M190.137.101

Title: ANNULOPLASTY BAND AND METHOD

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the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this Communication or the tendered references.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy R. Ryan et al.,

By their attorneys,

DICKE, BILLIG & CZAJA, P.A.

701 Building, Suite 1250

701 Fourth Avenue South

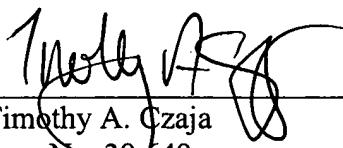
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Telephone: (612) 573-2004

Facsimile: (612) 573-2005

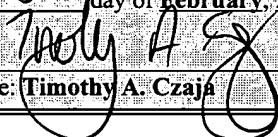
Dated: February 3, 2003

TAC:jmc

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy A. Czaja

Reg. No. 39,649

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:** The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on this 3 day of February, 2003.

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name: Timothy A. Czaja